

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please replace "Field of Invention" on page 1, lines 1-5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- This application claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application, Serial No. 60/194,607 filed April 5, 2000. The present invention relates to novel hepatitis C virus ("HCV") protease inhibitors, pharmaceutical compositions containing one or more such inhibitors, methods of preparing such inhibitors and methods of using such inhibitors to treat hepatitis C and related disorders. This invention specifically discloses novel macrocyclic compounds as inhibitors of the HCV NS3/NS4a serine protease.--